

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

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The literacy focuses in PrimaryConnections are examples of subject-specific literacies of science, such as: 3-D models, tables, graphs, diagrams, science journals, interviews and role-plays.

In each unit, students have a sequence of opportunities to learn how to interpret and construct scientific accounts of processes and events in their physical world, and to develop scientific reasoning and understanding through experience with these literacies. Students learn the purposes and functional features of these literacies of science to engage with scientific ideas about each topic, and to explain, develop, and re-represent their understanding in ways used in the broader scientific community.

Literacy also covers the use of everyday practices, processes and products for learning including those used in the students' broader community and by teachers and students for learning across the general primary school curriculum.

Everyday literacies include: cooperative small group work, whole class guided discussion, posters, word walls, PowerPoint presentations, charts, verbal reports, role-plays, debates and narratives. In each unit students have a range of opportunities to use these everyday literacies to learn about science and make links between their everyday understanding and scientific ones.

The use of these literacies reflects the mutually supportive relationship between science and literacy learning in that students are learning both the subject-specific literacies of science, as well as developing more general literacy capabilities, such as: how to use and integrate oral, written, and visual language; to participate effectively in discussion; to inquire and report on observations; clarify understanding; and to reflect on experiences.

The students are also learning how to adjust the form of their communication to its purpose and audience, and to monitor the effectiveness of their own learning strategies. Subject-specific vocabulary enables students to engage with, and represent, science understanding.

The literacy focuses in PrimaryConnections entail literacy practices as well as learning processes and product outcomes. For example, when students construct a labelled diagram early in a unit, they are in the process of engaging with and clarifying understanding, and of linking observation with emerging explanatory ideas to develop a representation. When they revise their diagram at the end of the unit, or re-represent their understanding in a new way, they are both continuing these learning processes and constructing a product to show this learning.

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

Literacy focuses: Early Stage 1 and Stage 1

LITERACY FOCUSES	WEATHER IN MY WORLD	ON THE MOVE	STAYING ALIVE	WHAT'S IT MADE OF?	WATER WORKS	PUSH-PULL	SOUNDS SENSATIONAL	SCHOOLYARD SAFARI	SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
ANNOTATED DIAGRAMS									
BIOGRAPHIES									
CHRONOLOGICAL LISTS									
CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS									
CROSS SECTIONS									
CUTAWAY DIAGRAMS									
DESIGN PORTFOLIOS									
DRAWINGS						✓			
FACTUAL RECOUNTS	✓				✓				
FACTUAL TEXTS	✓				✓	✓		✓	
FLOW CHARTS									
FORCE-ARROW DIAGRAMS						✓			
GLOSSARY									
GRAPHS					✓			✓	
IDEAS MAP								✓	
INFORMATION REPORTS									
INTERVIEWS					✓				

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LABELLED DIAGRAMS		✓			✓			✓	
MAPS					✓			✓	
ORAL PRESENTATIONS	✓								
PICTURE MAPS				✓					
POSTERS									
PROCEDURAL TEXTS									
REPORTS	✓								
ROLE-PLAYS					✓			✓	
SCIENCE JOURNAL	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
STORYBOARDS					✓				
SUMMARIES									
TABLES	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
TIMELINES									
TWLH CHARTS									
VENN DIAGRAM		✓							
WORD WALL	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
WRITING QUESTIONS									

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

Literacy focuses: Stage 2 and Stage 3

LITERACY FOCUSES	SPINNING IN SPACE	LIGHT FANTASTIC	SMOOTH MOVES	PLANTS IN ACTION	MATERIAL WORLD	EARTHQUAKE EXPLORERS	IT'S ELECTRIFYING	MARVELLOUS MICRO-ORGANISMS	PACKAGE IT BETTER	CHANGE DETECTIVES
ANNOTATED DIAGRAMS							✓			
BIOGRAPHIES							✓			
CHRONOLOGICAL LISTS							✓			
CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS							✓			
CROSS SECTIONS				✓						
CUTAWAY DIAGRAMS							✓			
DESIGN PORTFOLIOS									✓	
DRAWINGS										
FACTUAL RECOUNTS								✓		
FACTUAL TEXTS				✓	✓					
FLOW CHARTS								✓		
FORCE-ARROW DIAGRAMS										
GLOSSARY					✓					
GRAPHS	✓				✓			✓		
IDEAS MAP										
INFORMATION REPORTS								✓		
INTERVIEWS									✓	

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LITERACY FOCUSES	SPINNING IN SPACE	LIGHT FANTASTIC	SMOOTH MOVES	PLANTS IN ACTION	MATERIAL WORLD	EARTHQUAKE EXPLORERS	IT'S ELECTRIFYING	MARVELLOUS MICRO-ORGANISMS	PACKAGE IT BETTER	CHANGE DETECTIVES
LABELLED DIAGRAMS	✓			✓			✓	✓		
MAPS										
ORAL PRESENTATIONS				✓				✓	✓	
PICTURE MAPS										
POSTERS	✓									
PROCEDURAL TEXTS							✓	✓	✓	
REPORTS										
ROLE-PLAYS	✓				✓		✓			
SCIENCE JOURNAL	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
STORYBOARDS										
SUMMARIES				✓				✓	✓	
TABLES	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
TIMELINES				✓						
TWLH CHARTS				✓				✓		
VENN DIAGRAM										
WORD WALL	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
WRITING QUESTIONS				✓				✓	✓	

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

Literacy focus descriptions: Early Stage 1 and Stage 1

LITERACY FOCUS	LITERACY FOCUS DESCRIPTION
DRAWINGS	A drawing is a visual representation used to illustrate an idea, object or concept. It might take the form of a sketch, plan or design, usually using a pen, pencil or crayon.
FACTUAL RECOUNT	A factual recount describes or reconstructs past experiences. They are typically based on the author's direct experiences, and may include personal feelings or interpretations. Language features of recount texts may include reference to specific participants, written in past tense, and connective language to link events and times.
FACTUAL TEXT	A factual text presents information or ideas to instruct or persuade the reader. Factual texts use text (printed and visual) and text organisers to present information. They include titles, labels, highlighted keywords, diagrams, maps and photographs.
FORCE-ARROW DIAGRAM	A force-arrow diagram uses arrows to represent push and pull forces. Arrows can be used to indicate the direction of the force. A pull is indicated by an arrow pointing away from the object. A push is indicated by an arrow pointing towards the object.
GRAPH	A graph organises, represents and summarises information so that patterns and relationships can be identified. Graphs have a title and each variable is labelled on the graph axes, including the units of measurement.
IDEAS MAP	An ideas map is a graphic organiser for recording brainstormed ideas about a concept. Related ideas are recorded, branching from the central concept.
INTERVIEW	An interview is a discussion between two or more people where an interviewer (or interviewers) ask questions of an interviewee (or interviewees) to collect information and opinions. An interview is guided by questions relating to the purpose of the interview, and can occur face-to-face or by long distance, for example, by telephone or video link.
LABELLED DIAGRAM	A labelled diagram is a representation used to illustrate the shape and features of an object. Scientific labelled diagrams include a title, a drawing and labels indicating the main features. A line or arrow connects the label to the feature.
MAP	A map shows the location of items or places, the distance between them and possible routes to take. Features of a map include a title, labels and arrows, symbols and a key to explain the symbols.

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

Literacy focus descriptions: Early Stage 1 and Stage 1

LITERACY FOCUS	LITERACY FOCUS DESCRIPTION
ORAL PRESENTATION	An oral presentation is the expression of a topic to an audience to entertain or inform. It is usually of a fixed duration of time and includes an introduction, points of significance about the topic and a closing phase. The context informs the presentation style.
PICTURE MAP	A picture map uses pictorial representations to show the location of items or places and the distance between them. Features of a picture map include a title, a picture of each item or place, labels and arrows or lines to connect the labels to items or places.
REPORT	A report presents information about a topic or issue which has been collected through experience, investigation or research. It might aim to inform, influence or convince an audience. A report is usually structured using an introduction, a main body of information organised in a predictable pattern, and a conclusion which summarizes the main messages to be communicated. It might include the use of visual aids such as charts, tables, graphs and images.
ROLE-PLAY	A role-play is a physical representation of a system, process or situation. It involves students using speech, gestures, actions or objects to enact this representation.
SCIENCE JOURNAL	A science journal is a record of observations, experiences and reflections. It contains a series of dated, chronological entries. It may include written text, drawings, labelled diagrams, photographs, tables and graphs.
STORYBOARD	Storyboards are used to identify key events and represent them in sequential order. They include a title, drawings showing important details, descriptive captions and numbers to indicate the sequence of steps.
TABLE	A table is used to organise information so that it can be accessed more easily. It consists of a title, columns with headings and information organised under the appropriate headings.
VENN DIAGRAM	A Venn diagram is a visual representation of information in intersecting circles. Items with properties unique to a set are recorded in separate circles, while items with shared properties are recorded in the space where the circles intersect.
WORD WALL	A word wall is an organised collection of words and images displayed in the classroom. It supports the development of vocabulary related to a particular topic and provides a reference for students.

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

Literacy focus descriptions: Stage 2 and Stage 3

LITERACY FOCUS	LITERACY FOCUS DESCRIPTION
ANNOTATED DIAGRAM	An annotated diagram is a representation used to illustrate the function of the parts of an object. The diagram includes an accurate drawing, a title, a date and notes on the function of each part. A line or arrow connects the annotation to the part it describes.
BIOGRAPHY	A biography retells significant events in a persons' life, usually in the order in which they occurred. It includes the motives of participants and judgements or evaluation of the person's life and contribution to society. It includes a title, dates and personal achievements.
CHRONOLOGICAL LIST	A chronological list is a vertical summary of a series of events in order of their occurrence. This list allows the reader to refer quickly to major events. A chronological list includes a title, the date of each event and a description of the event.
CIRCUIT DIAGRAM	A circuit diagram is a pictorial representation of an electric circuit. It includes standard symbols of the different components and connections between components.
CROSS SECTION	A cross section is a diagram used to show the inside of an object. It includes a title, a drawing, a scale to indicate size and labels indicating the main features. A line or arrows connects the label to the feature.
CUTAWAY DIAGRAM	A cutaway diagram is a 3-D representation of the outside and inside parts of an object. It includes a title, a cutaway section to show the inside and labels with a line or arrow to indicate the main features.
DESIGN PORTFOLIO	A design portfolio is a record of observations, experiences and reflections. It might include a series of dated entries, written text, drawings, sketches, labelled diagrams, graphic designs, photographs, tables and graphs. It includes the design brief and information to assist the design process such as design criteria and evaluations of products.
FLOW CHART	A flow chart is a graphic organiser used to describe a sequence of events, or the stages in a process. A linear flow chart arranges the information in one line and uses arrows to indicate the order in which to read the text.

Overview of PrimaryConnections literacy focuses

Literacy focus descriptions: Stage 2 and Stage 3

LITERACY FOCUS	LITERACY FOCUS DESCRIPTION
INFORMATION REPORTS	Information report texts are used to organise and record factual information. The structure of an information report includes an opening statement (often classification or definition), a series of paragraphs describing various aspects and features of the topic, and a summary paragraph. Language features of information report texts include writing in the third person using timeless present tense, factual and precise language, and specialised or technical vocabulary.
LABELLED DIAGRAM	A labelled diagram is a representation used to illustrate the shape, size and features of an object. Scientific labelled diagrams include a title, an accurate drawing, a scale to indicate size and labels indicating the main features. A line or arrow connects the label to the feature.
POSTER	A poster is a multi-modal representation that links written and visual information to communicate ideas, processes and findings. Posters include a title, and written and visual information such as tables, graphs, diagrams, photographs and illustrations. Parts are linked through the use of layout features and signposts including lines, borders, arrows, numbers and captions, and the arrangement and positioning of information.
PROCEDURAL TEXT	A procedural text is used to describe how something is done. It includes materials needed to complete the task, and a sequence of instructional steps. They might also include annotated sketches.
QUESTION FOR INVESTIGATION	A question for investigation is structured to provide the focus for a scientific investigation. It poses the possible relationship between variables and guides the type and process of the investigation.
ROLE-PLAY	A role-play is a physical representation of a system, process or situation. It involves students using speech, gestures, actions and objects to enact this representation.
SCIENCE JOURNAL	A science journal is a record of observations, experiences and reflections. It contains a series of dated, chronological entries. It may include written text, drawings, labelled diagrams, photographs, tables and graphs.

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Literacy focus descriptions: Stage 2 and Stage 3

LITERACY FOCUS	LITERACY FOCUS DESCRIPTION
SUMMARY	A summary is a brief statement that presents the main points in an efficient, concise form. The purpose of a summary is to provide the main information in an organised way.
TABLE	A table is used to organise information so that it can be accessed more easily. It consists of a title, columns with headings and information organised under the appropriate headings.
TIMELINE	A timeline is used to represent a sequence of events. It includes a heading, a caption, units of time, symbols and words to label events.
TWLH CHART	A TWLH chart is used to elicit beliefs and ideas about a topic before, during and after an investigation or experience. It includes four sections with the headings: What we T hink we know, What we W ant to learn, What we L earned, and H ow we know.
WORD WALL	A word wall is an organised collection of words and images displayed in the classroom. It supports the development of vocabulary related to a particular topic and provides a reference for students.